

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed on October 13, 2004. Applicants have currently amended claims 1-3, 5-20 and 22 and have canceled claim 21. Accordingly, claims 1-20 and 22 are pending and presented for consideration. Applicants have also made minor typographical corrections to the specification in paragraphs 4 and 23.

In the Official Action, claims 1-5, 12-16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,642,958 to *Watanabe et al.* ("*Watanabe*"). In addition, claims 6-11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe* in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,167,469 to *Safai et al.* ("*Safai*").

Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by *Watanabe* nor rendered obvious by the combination of *Watanabe* with *Safai*. Namely, in claim 1, for example, there is provided an image data communication system including an image processing apparatus, an image distribution server and an image display apparatus. The image processing apparatus converts a captured image signal to image data having a reduced data size that can be readily processed in the image display apparatus which is located *remotely* from the image processing apparatus. In addition to outputting the reduced image data, the image processing apparatus also outputs the image data with additional data that includes transmission destination information (e.g., an e-mail address) associated with the image display apparatus.

The image distribution server, which is also located *remotely* from the image processing apparatus, not only receives the converted image data and the additional data, but generates an *electronic address information* that is then used for retrieving and viewing the image data. Such electronic address information could include, for example, a web-site URL. (See,

e.g., ¶¶42-48 and Figs. 4 and 6.) The image distribution server transmits the electronic address information to the image display apparatus using the transmission destination information (e.g., the e-mail address of the image display apparatus). Finally, the image display apparatus receives the electronic address information and retrieves the converted image data using the electronic address information and displays the image using the retrieved converted image data.

The above apparatus, as well as the corresponding method of claim 15, are therefore neither anticipated by *Watanabe* nor rendered obvious by the combination of *Watanabe* and *Safai*. For example, *Watanabe* does not include an image distribution server and does not use transmission destination information or electronic address information for sending and retrieving image data. Moreover, the *Watanabe* camera unit connects directly to the computer 3 such that they are not located remotely from one another.

In *Safai*, while an image is sent to an address, such as an e-mail address, there is no disclosure or teaching of an image display apparatus that is operative to receive electronic address information and then retrieve the converted image data from a remotely located image distribution server using the electronic address information. *Safai* further lacks an image processing apparatus that converts the image signal to an image data having a reduced data size that can be readily processed in a remotely located image display apparatus.

Likewise, with respect to independent claims 18 and 22, both *Watanabe* and *Safai* lack an image processing circuit or method to generate image data from an image pick-up device having a reduced data size that can be readily processed in a remotely located image display apparatus. Again, *Safai* sends the image data but performs no data reduction or matching geared toward the remotely located image display apparatus. And, as

mentioned above, *Watanabe's* camera unit directly attaches to the computer, such as via a PCMCIA connection, and does not output image data with additional data including an electronic address associated with remotely located image display device via a communications network.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record and therefore Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued with respect to the pending claims.

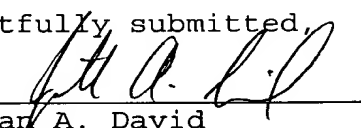
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-6331 in order to overcome any additional objections that might remain.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


Jonathan A. David

Registration No.: 36,494

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants